Tulsa City-County Library Gives First Sankofa Freedom Award

Tulsa City-County Library’s African-American Resource Center honored Michael Eric Dyson with the Tulsa Library Trust’s inaugural Sankofa Freedom Award on February 11. Nearly 400 people turned out to meet the noted author, educator and ordained Baptist minister at the award presentation, held at the Rudisill Regional Library. The Sankofa Freedom Award, which consists of a $5,000 cash prize, will be given annually in February during Black History Month to a nationally acclaimed individual who has dedicated his or her life to educating and improving the greater African-American community. Mr. Dyson donated his $5,000 prize to the Ida B. Wells Barnett Initiative to empower women affected by Hurricane Katrina. Sankofa is a word from the Akan language, which means: “We must go back and reclaim our past so we can move forward; so we understand why and how we came to be who we are today.” For more information about the Sankofa Freedom Award or the African-American Resource Center, call Alicia Latimer at (918) 596-7280.

2006 Sequoyah Award Winners

It is with great pleasure that the Sequoyah Committees announce the winners of the 2006 Sequoyah Book Awards:

Children’s Sequoyah Winner
The Tale of Despereaux
By Kate DiCamillo

Donna Norvell Award Winner
Wild About Books
Written by Judy Sierra
Illustrated by Marc Brown

Young Adult Sequoyah Winner
Eragon
By Christopher Paolini
Just so you know—The 99th Oklahoma Library Association Conference, scheduled for March 29 – April 1, 2006, is definitely the place to be! Barb Pfrehm, Program Chair, and the OLA Program Committee have put together a dynamic agenda of programs and social events. The Local Arrangements Committee, co-chaired by Carol Fox and Rita Howell, has worked to ensure a conference which will usher in a new century of Oklahoma librarianship with excitement, fellowship and fun! This conference schedule brims with activities that create opportunities to get to know your colleagues and reconnect with friends. In other words, this is going to be GREAT!

The Conference begins on Wednesday with five Pre-conferences and two special evening events:

- **Technical Services Roundtable presents “Connexion Macros.”** Harvey Hahn, an expert in OCLC macros, presents an all-day program on writing macros for Connexion software. Catalogers, you won’t want to miss this one!
- **Centennial Ad Hoc Committee brings “Centennial, What Centennial?”** to the Conference. This half-day “how to” program covers the basics of planning and presenting a Centennial event, as well as program ideas and available resources.
- **Children and Teen Services Roundtable (CATS) presents “Program Palooza—Whoze in the House?”**. This showcase of exciting and fresh programs and presenters will give librarians options for working with teens and tweens this year.
- **The Leadership Institute brings “Going for the Gold: Achieving Organizational Values with Personal Ethics”** to Wednesday’s programming. Learn how to integrate organizational values with personal ethics in decision making to achieve excellence for your institute.
- **The Public Libraries’ Division, along with the Marketing and Communications Committee, is sponsoring an all-day workshop entitled “Customers: How to Get ‘em and How to Keep ‘em.”**
- **If you enjoy an evening out with friends — and who doesn’t — you will love this year’s Dine Around.** Transportation will be provided by members of the Local Arrangements Committee (mighty fine and fun folks) to River Walk Crossing in Jenks. Finally, there is “Games, Glitz, and Glam!” sponsored by the Social Responsibilities Roundtable. The linguistic thrills of Scrabble, the entrepreneurial rush of Monopoly, or the strategic exhilaration of chess—your choice! All donations and sponsorships of this event help fund the Ruth Brown Memorial Award.

Begin your day early on Thursday morning with continental breakfast in the Exhibit Hall. I encourage you to visit the exhibits early and often. The support that we receive from vendors helps make this Conference possible. Please take time not only to visit with the vendors, but also to thank them for their support of OLA and the Conference.

If you will be attending Conference for the first time, plan to attend the First Timers Orientation. You’ll get tips and tricks for getting the most from the Conference, you’ll make instant new friends and colleagues, AND you’ll be eligible to win goodies ONLY available to first-timers.

Bill Knotts is the keynote speaker at the opening session at 9 a.m. on Thursday. He is the County Librarian at the Jefferson County Library in Colorado — one of the largest public libraries in the state. He has experience to share and stories to tell about speaking your voice — becoming an advocate — about making things happen that are important to you. I look
forward to hearing him encourage and motivate each of us.

After the opening session, choose from over 60 break-out programs, three luncheons, an all-day Folio program event and even a post-conference program, “Community Leadership, It’s Not a Spectator Sport” sponsored by the Public Library Division. Thursday evening’s All Conference Event allows us to travel “Through the Looking Glass” for an evening of fun and relaxation. I know you’ll want to join me as your favorite character in Alice in Wonderland just to kick the fun up a notch!

The library has made it to the comic strips! Friday evening’s banquet will be a rollicking evening with two funny guys, Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum, the creators of Unshelved, a comic about libraries. If you’re not familiar with Unshelved, rush to a computer fast and check out the strip at http://www.overduemedia.com.

From Wednesday to Saturday, Tulsa will be hopping with the things to know about at the OLA Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Mark your calendars, send in your registrations, get your “Alice costume,” and pack your bags. This conference is going to be outstanding!

On another note, consider what is happening at the State Capitol. As I write, hearings are scheduled for a bill which restricts funds from public libraries which provide young people’s free access to books and materials dealing with homosexuality. Several other important bills deal with finances, tax matters and the right of school administrators to choose where to spend the school district’s instructional dollars. There is much to do and much to say! I hope you have registered for OLA’s Legislative Day on March 7, 2006. Please make a commitment to call your legislator, write a note or letter, visit the Capitol, or participate in some way. Let us be determined to have our say and make a difference.

Jeanie Johnson, OLA President

New OLA Merchandise will be available at Conference
Position Your Library for Success

It always amazes me how library directors (and many other library spokespersons) who are very successful in their careers, who meticulously prepare for a board meeting, or who will anguish over every word as they prepare a speech, will just “wing it” when they do a media interview.

Do you usually drop everything to do an interview when a reporter calls? Going into an interview, do you feel you are the best person to do the interview because you know more about your library than any one else? Do you think to yourself, “I’ve done dozens of media interviews; I don’t need to practice?” (Sure, and I don’t ever need the help of a reference librarian because I’ve used a library dozens of times. In fact, I worked in my college library for three years.)

Do you develop messages for every interview? Do you develop messages for each program or service you publicize? Do you have talking papers with messages on reoccurring issues? Do you anticipate sensitive issues you will be asked to address, and prepare messages for each?

Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.

Yes, as famed UCLA basketball coach John Wooden constantly told his players, “Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.” Did he mean that UCLA would lose every game? Of course he didn’t. What he did mean was that in the close games against good teams, his team could lose if they were not prepared. UCLA teams had great talent, but how many teams and athletes with great talent don’t win. UCLA won 10 NCAA titles in 12 years because it was also the best-prepared team.

There are some very simple things you can do to position yourself and your library for success when dealing with the news media. Some can be done right now—before your next interview. Others should be done each time a reporter calls for an interview.

The following are a dozen steps you can take to ensure that you and your library will shine in interviews.

1. **Develop a media policy.** Most libraries have some kind of media policy. But is your media policy in writing? It should be. Your policy should specifically identify who may talk to the media, what issues they can address, who handles sensitive and controversial topics, and who talks to the media in the absence of these individuals. If you have some employees who can talk to the media on certain issues but not on others, include examples in your policy. For instance, if department heads can talk to the media about programs and services offered by their department, but not about budget issues, specifically mention this limitation in your policy.

   Finally, you should communicate your policy to all employees regularly (at least once every year). Emphasize to your employees that they should immediately refer all inquiries from the media to the designated persons so they can respond with the most up-to-date, complete and consistent information in a timely manner. Even seemingly innocent questions can become full interviews for the unsuspecting.

2. **Identify issues that the media may call you about.** What issues, especially controversial and sensitive ones, might the media contact you about? The time to prepare for these issues is not when a reporter calls, but when these topics are identified. Brainstorm with your staff. Are you prepared to talk about filtering or a reduction in library programs/services right now?

3. **Identify issues you want to discuss with the media.** Which programs and services do you want to talk to reporters about? Many of these are ones that you talk about every year. Others might be one-time priorities. If providing a wide variety of high-quality programs and services to local residents is an important goal for your library, be prepared to discuss how your library adds to the quality of life at every opportunity, not just when specifically asked about this issue.

4. **Develop messages for these issues.** Develop messages for each of the services, programs, or issues you have identified, and put them in writing. What actions do you want your readers, listeners, or
viewers to take, and how will they benefit or prevent a negative consequence by taking these actions? Think of each message as the headline you want for the story.

5. **Develop talking papers on recurring subjects.** Write talking points for those issues and programs that you will be discussing on a recurring basis. The talking paper should be a simple, one-page sheet with a bulleted list outlining the key points and your messages. You will find that many of these talking papers can be used from year to year with only minor updates. Do you have a talking paper for your library, for each department, as well as for each program or service?

6. **Gather “memory hooks” on a regular basis.** Are you currently gathering success stories, quotations from authoritative sources, examples, analogies, and other “memory hooks” on a regular basis? You and each department should gather these on an ongoing basis so you will have them ready to use at a moment’s notice.

7. **Train your spokespersons, and this means you, too.** Have you and other library spokespersons had media training? Or do you rationalize, “I’ve done dozens of interviews. I don’t need training”? The best way to identify problems and to see if you successfully deliver messages is to be taped during training.

8. **“Buy time” when a reporter calls.** There is no rule that says you have to drop everything when a reporter phones. However, this is just what many library spokespersons do. Unless you have recently talked about an issue and have your messages already prepared, buy time. Even 10-15 minutes will help you to be better prepared.

9. **Develop messages and anticipate questions for every interview.** Obviously, you will not anticipate every issue the reporter wants you to discuss. After you buy time, use it to develop messages for these one-time issues and put them in writing; then, anticipate the questions the reporter will ask. Also, have you saved a “memory hook” you can use?

10. **Practice.** Sounds like the obvious next step, but how many times do you practice before an interview? After you have developed messages and anticipated questions, have someone ask you the questions, and see if you deliver your messages. Keep a cassette recorder handy in your office. Critique your practice.

11. **Know what you can and cannot talk about.** There are some issues you should not or cannot talk about. Do you have privacy rules, legal restrictions, political issues or policy questions to consider? Be familiar with them. Tell the reporter up-front if you cannot respond to certain questions. Don’t be swayed from this position.

12. **Have your messages in front of you during interviews.** Once you have made the effort to develop your messages and to put them in writing, use them. Keep messages in front of you while talking to the reporter. Briefly glance at them from time to time. The only exception would be during a live TV interview, when you want to maintain good eye contact. Most spokespersons forget to deliver their messages because they don’t refer to them during the interview. Also, don’t deliver your messages only once. Repeat them.

Yes, following these 12 steps will take time, and we all seem to be short of time these days. However, the up-front time that you spend in preparing for media interviews can save you time in the future and, more important, can help you successfully deliver your library’s messages. Remember, **failing to prepare is preparing to fail**

Stephen Mongelluzzo

Stephen Mongelluzzo has conducted numerous workshops for library systems throughout the country. In 2005, he published **Winning Media Interviews: Sure-Fire Tactics to Get Your Messages Out** ([www.WinningMediaInterviews.com](http://www.WinningMediaInterviews.com)).
Indian Reorganization Act Era Constitutions and Charters
http://thorpe.ou.edu/IRA.html

This is a product of the University of Oklahoma Law Library, and is maintained by Marilyn K. Nicely, American Indian Law Subject Specialist. The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 was one of the most important and comprehensive Indian laws during FDR’s administration. Going into effect in May 1935, it required that tribes draft constitutions in order to receive federal recognition. Some tribes created new forms of government, but some adapted their earlier tribal organizations to meet the demands of the act. Some Indian governments provide for a governing council, some give chieftains governmental power, and some are confederacies. After the tribe adopted a constitution, they requested the Secretary of the Interior to issue a charter to them, which then had to be ratified by a tribal vote. The charter gave tribes the powers of a business corporation. This website features those constitutions and charters, along with many useful reference materials and historical materials.

Note: in this web site “Codes and Constitutions” are tribal law; “Federal Indian Law” is concerned about relationships with the U.S. government.

MAIN PAGE
The main page of this website is the most important page because it links to constitutions arranged alphabetically by tribe, A through Z. It links to the National Indian Law Library, which has the most comprehensive collection of codes in print and online.

ALASKA

ARCHIVE
Contains some important historical codes, such as the 1979 Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

CODES
Contains tribal codes and links to other tribal codes, including the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

COHEN'S HANDBOOK
Contains the full text of the 1941 edition of the Handbook of Federal Indian Law by Felix S. Cohen. This discusses the legal aspects of such topics as the scope of tribal self-government, individual rights in tribal property, Indian trade, and special laws relating to Oklahoma.

CONSTITUTIONS
Contains constitutions arranged by name of tribe from A to Z, and links to other constitutions that are online.

INDIAN LANDS/INDIAN LAND TITLES
This links to five guides about land ownership, including A Guide to Rarick's Oklahoma Indian Law Titles.
Contains opinions by volumes, by "M" case number, and alphabetical by subject.

SUPREME COURT
Contains information about cases compiled by the National Indian Law Library from 1997 to 2004. It also links to their Indian Law Bulletin and their Supreme Court Bulletin.

TREATIES
This links to Kappler’s Indian Affairs: Laws and treaties as digitized and maintained by Oklahoma State University.

LINKS
Includes the Index of Native American Legal Resources on the Internet, the National Indian Law Library’s Native American Law Research Links, National Tribal Justice Resource Center, Researching Your Native American Heritage, Native Data Online, model law and code resources, and links to tribal courts.

RESEARCH GUIDE
Features Marilyn’s Annotated Bibliography of Federal and Tribal Law: Print and Internet Sources and other research sources.

TRIBAL UCC [Tribal Commercial Code]
Contains links to tribal commercial codes, information about tribal secured transaction laws for e-commerce, and other resources.

Steve Beleu, ODL

One Stop for New Library Grant Opportunities

The new Library Grants Blog, by librarians Pam MacKellar and Stephanie Gerding, provides a free resource for finding library grant and award opportunities. This blog is the only single online location where a librarian can find the latest grants from all types of sources - government, foundations, corporations, organizations, and professional associations - as well as additional opportunities for awards and internships.

Examples of current postings include government grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute for Museum and Library Services, foundation grants from the Verizon Foundation and the For All Kids Foundation, awards from the National Library Commission and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, a corporate grant from the Bank of the West, an internship at Cornell University Library, and grants from the American Library Association.

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

2006 Award of Merit

The Alumni Association of the OU School of Library and Information Studies is seeking nominations for the Award of Merit for 2006.

The recipient’s name will be engraved on a plaque kept in the OU School of Library and Information Studies. A certificate of award will be presented to the recipient, and a $50 donation to the Irma Tomberlin Scholarship Fund will be made in the name of the recipient.

Criteria for nomination are:
• An M.L.I.S. degree from the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies
• The nominee has generated an active interest in the School AND/OR
• The nominee has made an effective and innovative contribution to the library profession
• AND/OR contributed to the professional literature.

Submit the name of your nominee for Outstanding OU School of Library and Information Studies Alumnus and the reason/s why she/he deserves the Award of Merit to the e-mail address listed below. All submissions must be electronic, preferably MS Word. Thank you for your help in locating an outstanding alumnus to honor. Nominations must be received by March 3, 2006 to be considered for this year’s award.

Sharon Bish, MLIS
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